

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1892

The Share Market.

LATEST QUOTATIONS	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.—115 per cent. sales and sellers.	
The National Bank of China, Ltd.—on £7 10. paid up.—35 per cent. dis. sales and buyers.	
The National Bank of China, Ltd.—Founders' shares, \$200 per share, sellers.	
The Bank of China, Japan & the Straits, Ltd.—\$24, sellers.	
The Bank of China, Japan & the Straits, Ltd.—Founders' shares, £20, sellers.	
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—24 per cent. premium, sellers.	
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—2 per cent. premium, buyers.	
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent. premium.	
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$82 per share, buyers.	
China Traders' Insurance Company—\$56 per share, sellers.	
North China Insurance—Tls. 225 per share; sellers.	
Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$105 per share, sellers.	
Yangtze Insurance Association—\$102, sellers.	
On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share.	
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$260 per share, sellers.	
China Fire Insurance Company—\$87 per share, buyers.	
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$39, sellers.	
China and Manila Steam Ship Company—28 per share, buyers.	
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—50 per cent. discount, sellers.	
Douglas Steamship Company—\$37 per share, sellers.	
The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.	
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$77 per cent. premium, sales and sellers.	
Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited—\$144 per share, sales and buyers.	
Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited—\$23, sales and buyers.	
Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per cent. Debentures—\$501.	
The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited—\$44 per share, sellers.	
The Shamen Hotel Co., Limited—\$5 per share, sellers.	
Punjom and Sunghie Das Samantan Mining Co.—\$21 per share, sellers.	
The Rauld Gold Mining Co., Limited—40 cents per share, sales and buyers.	
New Imuris Mining Co., Limited—\$21 per share, sales and buyers.	
The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—nominal.	
Tongtin Coal Mining Co.—\$110 per share, sales and buyers.	
The Tebeba Mining and Trading Co., Limited—\$5.10 per share, sales and sellers.	
The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—5 cents per share, sales and sellers.	
London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Ltd.—n/s nominal.	
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$150 per share, sellers.	
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$35, nominal.	
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$154 per share, sellers.	
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co., Limited—\$2 per share, sellers.	
Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—\$5 per share, sellers.	
The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—\$8 per share, sellers.	
The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—\$60, sales and sellers.	
The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—\$26 per share, sellers.	
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$21 per share, sellers.	
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$45 per share, sales.	
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$100 per share, sellers.	
Hongkong Gas Company—\$105 per share, sales and buyers.	
Hongkong Ice Company—\$68 per share, buyers.	
Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$65 per share, sellers.	
The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—\$51 per share, sellers.	
The Green Island Cement Co.—\$44 per share, sellers.	
The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$21 per share, sales and sellers.	
The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—\$25 per share, nominal.	
The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$35 per share, buyers.	
EXCHANGE.	
On LONDON—Bank, T. T.2/8 1/2	
Bank Bills, on demand2/8 1/2	
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight2/8 1/2	
Credits at 4 months' sight2/9	
Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight2/9 1/2	
On PARIS—	
Bank Bills, on demand3/40	
Credits, at 4 months' sight3/49	
On INDIA:—	
T. T.220 1/2	
On Demand221	
On SHANGHAI—	
Bank, T. T.7 1/2	
Private, 30 days' sight7 1/2	

VISITORS AND RESIDENTS AT THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

Mrs. Anderson.	Mr. W. T. Leighton.
M. E. Boxshall.	Mr. and Mrs. Lord.
Mrs. Chapman.	Mrs. and Mrs. M. Drew.
Capt. Clutterbuck.	Mrs. Nicol and child.
Mrs. Clutterbuck.	Mrs. Paul.
Mr. F. H. Cocksedge.	Mr. V. Perkes.
Mr. G. C. Cox.	Mr. F. E. Shean.
Captain Cunningham.	Mr. J. A. Thompson.
Mr. Geo. Fenwick.	Mr. J. Walla.
Mr. and Mrs. Finney.	Mr. and Mrs. Warren.
Mr. A. Kitson.	Mr. C. H. Wiltain.

VISITORS AND RESIDENTS AT THE MOUNT AUSTIN HOTEL.

Mr. H. Allen.	Mr. E. S. Joseph.
Mr. Beattie.	Mr. and Mrs. W. Macbean.
Mr. S. T. Benjamin.	children and nurse.
Mr. Hart-Bock.	Capt. D. F. MacCarthy.
Mr. E. K. Chandler.	R.N.
Rev. R. F. Cobbold.	Mrs. D. F. MacCarthy
Mr. Cochran.	and infant.
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cohen.	Mr. Chas. C. Malsch.
Mr. J. B. Coughtrie.	Mrs. Van Nier.
Mr. D. Crawford.	Mr. A. Ross.
Miss Hogg.	Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Snadell.
Miss C. G. Hogg.	Mr. Taylor.

VISITORS AND RESIDENTS AT THE PEAR HOTEL.

Mr. Adamson.	Mr. W. H. R. Loxley.
Mr. A. Cadby.	Mr. F. Maitland.
Mr. Chaudet.	Mr. W. R. Needham.
Mr. T. Cowen.	Mr. Medhurst.
Mr. F. East.	Mr. Sparrow.
Mr. W. S. Harrison.	Mr. A. Thomson.
Mr. G. Howard.	Mr. Geo. L. Tomlin.
Mr. Morton Jones.	Mr. Tomlin.
Mr. V. Kofod.	

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

7th December, 1892.—At 4 p.m.

STATION.	Latitude north or south	Longitude east or west	Time	Temp- ere.	Humidity	Wind Dir.	Force	Weather	Bar. at Sea	Bar. at Land
Wladivostok.	43° 10' N.	132° 05' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Tokio.	35° 40' N.	139° 45' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Nagasaki.	32° 45' N.	128° 05' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Shanghai.	31° 10' N.	121° 25' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Foochow.	26° 05' N.	119° 15' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Amoy.	23° 45' N.	118° 05' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Swatow.	23° 45' N.	116° 05' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Hongkong.	22° 15' N.	114° 10' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Victoria Peak.	22° 15' N.	114° 10' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Chaoan.	22° 15' N.	114° 10' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Macao.	22° 15' N.	114° 10' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Haikow.	20° 05' N.	110° 05' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Shanghai.	31° 10' N.	121° 25' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Amoy.	23° 45' N.	118° 05' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Swatow.	23° 45' N.	116° 05' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Hongkong.	22° 15' N.	114° 10' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
Victoria Peak.	22° 15' N.	114° 10' E.	10.15	65	84	N	0	0	30.1	30.1
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Swatow.	23° 45' N.									

Intimations.

GINGER ALE.

WE have always made good GINGER ALE, and we are now making the best. At various exhibitions and competitions in London and elsewhere, GINGER ALE made by the formula we now use has won 32 PRIZE MEDALS and CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

In 1890 competed and won against FOUR of the most famed Bellast makers.

The Analyst's report:—

"It is of an exceptionally good quality."
"Particularly pleasant to the taste."
"Decidedly tonic and sustaining."
"In every respect most satisfactory."

ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D.

The ideal temperance beverage.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co., LD.
Victoria Dispensary,
Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong, 17th October, 1891. [1183]

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

have just received
ex Steamers "BENLEDI" and "GANGES"
their first shipments of

XMAS CONFECTIONERY

Consisting of:—
CHOCOLATE CREMES, VANILLA PRA-
LINES, SUGARED ALMONDS, BURNT
ALMONDS, NOUGAT, JUJUBES,
TURKISH DELIGHT,
PARISIANS,
&c., &c., &c.

DELICIOUS FRUIT FELLIES.
ASSORTED PINEAPPLE, LIME, DAMSON,
GUAVA, RASPBERRY, STRAWBERRY,
PLUM, &c.

CALLARD and BOWSER'S
BUTTER SCOTCH, ALMOND ROCK and
EVERTON TOFFEE.

CADBURYS CHOCOLATES
In great variety.
CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, MUSCATELS,
ALMONDS and FIGS.

FANCY BOXES.
A large and varied Assortment of
ARTISTIC DESIGNS.

XMAS CARDS,
ENGLISH, JAPANESE, and CHINESE,
a splendid selection.

TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS,
A LARGE STOCK WELL ASSORTED.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.
Hampden 10th November, 1892.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1892.

THE "SHANGHAI MERCURY" JIBEL CASE.

The criminal prosecution in Her Britannic Majesty's Court of Summary Jurisdiction at Shanghai of Mr. HANRY O'SHEA, a writer on the staff of the *Shanghai Mercury*, for an alleged libel by the chosen representative of a combination of Portuguese who claim to be members of a low-class gaming house, known as the Club Liberal, must be regarded as quite an event in the history of the Model Settlement; and his conviction will stand for all time as a monument of either judicial ignorance or imbecility. The head and front of Mr. O'SHEA's offending can be clearly explained in a few words, and we cannot do better, in making the case clear to our readers, than follow the conclusions as to matters of fact arrived at from the evidence by the Assistant Judge, Mr. G. JAMISON. Eight Portuguese wished to have a place where they could gamble to their hearts' content without interference, and they accordingly put their heads together and started the Club Liberal in a semi-Chinese house down an alley-way. They bought a few chairs and stools, one of the immortal eight contributed a couple of tables covered with green cloth and a cane easy chair and couch, an old Hongkong resident generously handed over his copy of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, the *Shanghai Mercury* was subscribed for, and a bar was put up and a small stock of liquors provided—and thus was formed the Club Liberal. There is a good deal of doubt as to the genuineness of the method by which members were admitted into this establishment, but there is no doubt that the minutes of the meetings and the statements of account were bogus and that the minute book was stolen—the Judge

used the word 'abstracted'—by one of the founders from the office of his employers. The house was used for gambling and apparently for nothing else; it was kept open till all hours in the morning, and "noises of gaming and shouting and lights burning and 'rickshaws' standing round about the doors"—these are the Judge's own words—must have made the locality a regular Pandemonium and a nuisance to the public. Gambling of a more or less reckless character was carried on night after night, and large sums of money, considering the social status and means of the players, were lost and won. The popular game was *Kobachao*, with a banker, and in which expert manipulation of the dice is an important aid to success. Apparently *Kobachao* is as much an open game as *rouge et noir*, roulette or baccarat, and would be held as illegal wherever British law is recognised. The players at the Club Liberal were almost entirely clerks employed in banks and foreign commercial houses, some of them occupying positions of trust, and there cannot be the slightest doubt that temptations to dishonesty were put in the way, which some of them at least did not resist.

Mr. O'SHEA, in pursuance of his business as a newspaper writer, after making inquiries, considered it his duty to make public the doings at the Club Liberal, and he did so in the columns of the *Shanghai Mercury*. He characterised certain places as gambling houses and a discredit to the Portuguese community, referring specially to Hongkong; he said these dens were disgraceful and dangerous; that young Portuguese gambled for all they were worth and a good deal more, and that the Portuguese Consul-General knew very well where the dens were; and finally, Mr. O'SHEA called the Club Liberal a gambling hell and its frequenters professional gamblers. This was no doubt pretty strong language, but after a careful perusal of the whole evidence—the case lasted several days—we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. O'SHEA substantially justified every word he wrote.

The members of the Club Liberal, or some of them, took umbrage at the *Mercury's* comments and, so we are informed by a reliable Shanghai correspondent, subscribed amongst themselves the sum of \$500 with which they retained the eminent services of Mr. W. H. DRUMMOND, barrister-at-law, in order to get Mr. O'SHEA sent to prison. That was their avowed object, and our correspondent states that Mr. DRUMMOND assured his clients of the fulfilment of their worthy desires. If that is true, we are exceedingly sorry for Mr. DRUMMOND and for his practical knowledge of the Law of Libel. If the members of the Club Liberal had good grounds for complaint against the *Shanghai Mercury*, their remedy lay in an action at law for damages; to criminally prosecute a man for an attack on a semi-public institution, an attack which was general and not personal, was ridiculous, as well as being cowardly and contemptible. We can hardly believe that an experienced lawyer like Mr. DRUMMOND could possibly have recommended such a course. However, a prosecutor was found in a gentleman named COSTA, one of the officials of the so-called Club, and in due course Mr. O'SHEA had to appear in the Summary Court charged with a criminal offence. After a long and patient hearing the Judge found that the Club Liberal was started solely for gambling, that everything connected with the place was stained with discredit, that it was a disgrace to the Portuguese community, that it was a disgraceful and dangerous den offering temptations to young men, that the profits of the Club came from the gaming tables, and that Mr. O'SHEA was perfectly justified in directing public attention to a dangerous and objectionable institution. And then his Worship found defendant "technically guilty" and fined him \$10 and refused to make any order for costs. The grounds on which Mr. JAMISON convicted were that Mr. O'SHEA had not justified the use of the expressions "professional gamblers" and "gambling hell." As it is in evidence that indiscriminate gambling was habitually indulged in night after night, that the bankers at *Kobachao* have a decided advantage over the players, and that a percentage of the money staked at the tables went to the Club, it seems clear enough that the Club Liberal was as much a professional gambling house and a gambling hell as the licensed *Faxian* houses in Macao. Besides, the Shanghai Assistant Judge ought to know the decision in *Lambey Paine v. Labouchere*, where it was laid down that the substantial charges being proved, mere inaccuracies in language would not affect the verdict; and in this case, according to Mr. JAMISON's own admissions, the charges made against the Club Liberal and its members were justified beyond all doubt.

Owing to the sudden illness of his legal adviser, Mr. A. P. STORRS, the defendant had to contend against unforeseen difficulties, and it seems to us, as Mr. O'SHEA swore in the witness box, he had nothing to do with editing or publishing the *Shanghai Mercury*, that he was not in any way legally responsible. By §1 and §2 of Victoria, chap. 64, it is laid down that in criminal prosecutions only the proprietor, editor, or any person responsible for the publication of a newspaper can be proceeded against; and as Mr. O'SHEA denies that he was associated with the *Mercury* in any one of these positions, and as the onus of proof lay on the prosecution, we contend that the trial was a complete farce and his conviction a travesty both on law and common sense.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

The Hongkong Government, having asserted, through its Secretary, that house rents have not fallen to the figures at which they stood before the late which

induced the Secretary of State to sanction the increase of official salaries by 30 per cent. We intended to produce figures showing that the Government view was entirely wrong. We now find, however, that the only complete and reliable figures of rents in 1890 (before the Salaries Commission sat) and 1892 are in the hands of the Government! Such figures as we have been able to obtain show that, except in special cases easily explained, rents are no higher now, and in many cases actually lower, than they were before the boom. These incomplete figures are hardly worth reproducing. If the Government can be persuaded to give publicity to them, but failing that, we promise our readers that such statistics as we can give shall be published in due course, to show that there is now nothing of the 1890 boom remaining to justify the perpetuation of the inflated official salaries.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Yava* left Singapore for this port at daylight to-day.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s Royal mail steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong, arrived at Kobe at 4.30 p.m. on the 6th inst., and left again at 11 a.m. on the 7th for Vancouver, via Yokohama.

A REGULAR meeting of Perseverance Lodge, No. 1165, E.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Friday, the 16th inst., at 4.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

THE Agents (Messrs. Dodwell, Carrill & Co.) inform us that the Northern Pacific Steamship Co.'s steamer *Zambesi*, from Tacoma, Wash., has arrived at Yokohama, and left that port to-day for Hongkong direct.

"Yes," said the young student, thoughtfully, "when I get interested in a subject I never stop until I have embraced it thoroughly."

"That's nice," was Julia's hesitating reply. "Do—do you think I'm an interesting subject?"

By the *Oris Goto*—Why is the *Hongkong Telegraph* like a beautiful woman?—Because when once looked at it remains for ever in the memory of man—and they all try to procure a facsimile of the one they saw. Ahem!

MESSRS. Carmichael & Co., Ltd., have this year an unusually pretty selection of silmanacks, in various designs, more tasteful and neat than any we have seen, with charming photographic views, Shakespearean pictures with appropriate quotations, and other attractive features.

MAILS Due:—
Singapore (Benalder) 8th inst.
Bombay (Bianco) 8th
American (Gaulle) 10th
Indian (Wingard) 13th
Singapore (Yava) 13th

AT 8 o'clock this morning there was an outbreak of fire in a house occupied by a hawker in Fook Hing Lane, at Yau-mai-wei. The dwelling was totally consumed before the Fire Brigade got the upper hand of the devouring element. The total amount of the damage done is about \$300 worth.

LAST night a young Chinese woman, who had just got out of her teens, committed suicide by swallowing opium. She was the daughter of a sampan woman, and it is supposed that the dislike of her mother to palm her off, *à la Chinoise*, on a man whom she knew not, was the main cause of the rash act.

"PINEAPPLE JUICE" says a physician, "has medicinal properties of the highest order. In throat diseases, and even in diphtheria, it has seldom failed to give relief, and as an antidyspeptic it is invaluable. The unpleasant taste of this medicine can be got rid of by the persistent use of this remedy, and as it goes at once to the root of the trouble and removes the cause, the cure is a permanent one. Any dyspeptic who has not tried the pineapple should lose no time in taking the advice of one who has."

WIT AND WISDOM.

Bachelors are the unbuttered bread of the world.

An optimist is a man who believes that all eggs will hatch.

In giving the devil his due, you are liable to give yourself away.

A pessimist is a man who believes that all chestnuts have worms in them.

Do not follow your prejudices until they make you hungry.

The combs of fast in manners, morals, mode & "Decies" good form and all its codes.

He—Do you think it possible for a man to love two women? She—Not if either of them should find it out.

THE Venus de Medici is five feet five inches in height, 25 inches about the waist, 34 about the bust and 44 about the hips. The women employed as "cloak models" in ladies' outfitting establishments required of a "model" 5 feet 5 inches in height in one establishment are the following: Waist, 23 to 24 inches; bust, 34 to 35; hip, 45 to 47; base of skull to waist, 16; length of leg, 34 to 35; prominent physician recently gave the following as the current measurement for a well-developed, well-proportioned and healthy woman 5 feet 5 inches in height: Waist, 24 inches; bust, 33 to 34; hips, 33 to 35; wrist, 5 to 5½; hips, 44 to 45; calf, 23 to 25; ankle, 7 to 7½. The doctor's "model woman" has smaller hips and a smaller bust and about the same waist as a "cloak model."

Our love is done!
I would not have it back I say,
I would not have my whole year May!
But yet for our dear passion sake,
Kiss me once more and strive to make
Our last kiss the supremest one,
For love is done.

MESSRS. Siemens and Co. have sent us a very useful and handy book calendar, issued by the Transatlantic Fire Insurance Company, Limited, of Hamburg, for which they are agents.

ENGLAND is not the only country in which there has been a run upon alcohol during the last few years. The consumption of beer in Germany amounted to 1,144,000,000 gallons in the year 1891-2 against 950,000,000 gallons in 1886, an increase of 17 per cent, while the population has increased by only 4 per cent.

HARVESTON'S Monster Show was packed with an enthusiastic audience again last night. The performance of the Feeley troupe were immense. To-night the *total ensemble* will be immense. If possible, the arena at 8.45, 10.15, and 11.45. On Saturday next, for the special benefit of ladies and children, and Peak residents, who cannot attend the evening performances, there will be a grand matinee, commencing at 2.30 p.m., children half-price to all parts of the house.

At Fresnillo in Mexico the other week a novel exhibition was given in the shape of a fight between a bull and two Mexican lions recently captured in the mountains near Zacatecas. The event took place in the building of the city, and attracted fully 2,000 spectators. The bull in the beginning had the best of the fight. He charged madly at one of the lions and badly wounded him with his horns. The second lion got a grip on the bull's throat with his teeth and hung on until the bull fell to the ground exhausted. When a handkerchief entered the arena to further excite the bull into fighting, the ferocious lion sprang upon him, and before any one came the unfortunate man was fatally injured and died shortly after being taken from the ring. The suffering bull and the frenzied lion were slaughtered, and the crowd departed delighted with the sport.

TO-DAY'S SHIPPING RETURNS.

Inward.
Cicero steamer, from Saigon.
Devawongse " Canton.
Lysmoen " Canton.
Hohow " Canton.
Formosa " Swatow.
Aochie " Hongay.
Nanyong " Singapore.
Aggregating 6,037 tons, register.

Outward.
Haitian steamer, for Swatow.
China " Saigon.
Shanghai " Shanghai.
Freemshire " Singapore.
Suffit " Singapore.
Mongkut " Bangkok.
Hohow " Shanghai.
Cathartes Apar " Singapore.
Woolung " Singapore.
Aggregating 12,242 tons, register.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Allot Memorial Hospital begs to acknowledge, with thanks, the following donations to the funds of the Hospital:—

Tung Sang Wo \$15
Seng Wo Hung \$15
Soy Kut \$15
Kong Seng Hong \$10
Yee On Hong \$10
Yuen Seng Hong \$10
Wing Seng Shun \$10
Wing Chun Wing \$10
Sin Fong \$10
Yue Wo Loong \$10
Kwong Fong Wo \$10
Yen Shun Hong \$10
Kwong Loong \$10
Kwong Loong \$10
Sun Tai Lee \$10
Shin Ying Wo \$10
Kwong Seng Cheong \$10
Tak Loong On \$10
Wo Yik Tai \$10
Poo Loong \$10
Kwong Cheong Loong \$10
Man On Tong \$10
On Wo Tai \$10
Fo Lo Yuen \$10
Fook Shing Loong \$10
Wong Shing Loong \$10
Wing Tong Kai \$10
In smaller sum \$58

SERIOUS ASSAULT CASE.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

At the Magistracy this morning Mahomet Japhet and another coloured gentleman appeared before Mr. Hastings to answer to the charge of assaulting Aloa, a Chinese sailor, the employ of Mr. R. Fraser-Smith, who is the executor of his late father's will, in the execution of his lawful duty, connected with the salvage of the cargo of the ship *Dumnull*, which was wrecked off the Kowloon Docks twenty two years ago. Mr. H. J. Holmes appeared for the prosecution and Mr. J. Grist, of Mr. C. D. Wilkinson's office, defended.

In opening the proceedings Mr. Holmes said:—Your Worship, this is a case of serious assault in the harbour, committed by Mahomet Japhet and another Indian. As I was only instructed this morning and have therefore had no time to see the witnesses, I shall be glad if you will kindly adjourn the hearing until some other convenient time.

Mr. Grist asked for permission to issue counter-summaries. His clients did not know the names of those who assaulted them, but knew them by sight. If his Worship would grant time he (Mr. Grist) had no doubt that his clients would be able to find them out. His clients were Chinese, and he would explain, to show how the case stood, that they were a few months ago the crew of the *Robert Fraser-Smith's* schooner *Montclair*, which is anchored in Kowloon Bay near the *Dumnull* Rock. They are engaged in salvaging the cargo of the *Dumnull*, but the plaintiff also claims the right to salvage it.

His Worship—This is a case of assault and has nothing to do with the salvage rights.

Mr. Grist—Just so, but I am merely trying to show you why I want the cross-summaries.

His Worship—Very well. I will adjourn the case until Saturday morning at 11 o'clock.

"CHARBONNAGES."

LATEST REPORT FROM THE MINES.

The steamship *Aochie* arrived in-day from Hongay, bringing Mr. A. G. Morris and Mr. Max Gribbe, who have been on a special visit of inspection to the property of the Compagnie Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin. They are both extremely well satisfied with the progress which has been made in the operations at Ngoc and Ha-fong (Hongay) and the work of the shareholders, and the general public, at a distance from the scene of operations, and in ignorance of the thousand and one little details which require attention before everything runs smoothly, may be (and probably have been already) growing impatient for the long-expected big output from the mines, yet those who have been seen the works, and have formed reliable opinions on the development of the business since the beginning of the year are unanimous in expressing the highest praise of the activity and energy employed in forwarding what is at once the hope and necessity of

Hongkong and Tonkin's future, and in the confidence that, as early as could reasonably be expected, Hongay will be in a position to supply coal enough for practically the whole of the Far East and to pay dividends enough to satisfy even the most sanguine speculators. They have waited, but they will not have to wait many months longer.

There are now at the Company's works about 3,000 native miners, besides other workmen of all kinds; and work has been pushed forward night and day. For two or three days the so-called pirates—sneak-thieves on a large scale—scared the natives about Kebao and Campha, distant portions of the Company's concession, and nobody cared to be abroad in the dark; but there is now a military guard of 300 soldiers on the station, with orders to deal summarily with any lawbreaker caught; and the result is sufficient to scare the life out of the most brazen pirates. Work is going on steadily all over the Company's concession; at Ha-tout, the main centre of operations, there was never for a moment any cessation or scare of any sort. Here the whole front of the hillside has been cut away, exposing three fine rich seams, which are also cut into by a shaft from the top of the hill to the heart of the coal-bed, piercing all three; while swarms of busy workmen are cutting away the face of the hill on the other sides and at the back, so that soon the whole huge mass of coal will be exposed to attack at every point, and 1,000 tons a day will easily be got. The railway runs now from the very centre of the seam on the front of the hillside, up to the screening ground, and from that point will be carried on to the wharf. Already the line has been built on the wharf level, and trucks can be taken alongside steamers; but the higher level is not yet completed. The wharf can accommodate ships of 20 feet draught at low water spring tides, and up to nearly thirty feet at high water. It is most substantially built, and should not cost any appreciable amount in repairs for many years to come.

The inhabitants of the mining settlement, which is quite a large one as such things go in this part of the world, have a very pleasant time, taking it all round. The climate is decidedly a peg above Hongkong—not so hot in summer nor so cold in winter. The country around is simply lovely, woodland, hill, and forest mingling in most picturesque and delightful combinations. Every week end, almost, shooting parties of picnics are organised, while the community is large enough to provide itself with abundance of social enjoyments.

The *Aochie* had very satisfactory weather going down from Hongkong to Hongay, and nothing of note was recorded, but the return trip was exceedingly rough and stormy, occupying about 36 hours longer than usual. She brought, as usual, a full cargo of coal, which is always readily sold now that its excellent quality is undeniably established.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Macao, 7th December.

On the 30th ult. there was a dance at the Club Uniao, H.E. the Governor and Sir de Boja attending; the company numbered some 30 ladies and four score gentlemen and everything passed off in the most enjoyable manner. On the 1st instant the E. & A. Co.'s liner *Guthrie* put into the roads, early in the morning; cargo-boats were already in waiting overnight, and were towed by a Government steam-launch out alongside. At ten o'clock precisely another Government launch conveyed His Lordship Dr. de Medeiros and party from the *Hongkong* wharf to the *Guthrie*. A number of Government officials, who had to go to Timor, lolloped about the wharf and awaited themselves of His Reverence's kindness to go on board in the launch and so save sampsans. Captain and Mrs. da Silva, not being invited to join, and not caring to take leave unasked, had to wait until 4 p.m., when the launch returned and took them. By that time there was a stiff north-east wind and a pretty high sea. It is said that even when the Bishop got on board things were pretty lively. The bottom of our sister-harbour, for had it not been for the agility of a Jack Tar, on the *Guthrie* he might have taken an unexpected baptism; service all to himself, in-processure, cleared water, too. As it was, his holy trousers were wet up to the knees. I believe—all this inconvenience and delay resulted from His Lordship and some other Government officials, who had gone to Hongkong to embark on the steamer, changing their minds at the last moment and coming back here to embark. The *Guthrie* did not get away until 5 p.m. that day.

The Celestial world is grievously disappointed about the coming festival for the subscriptions are not sufficient to carry out the original programme—to cover up most of the Chinese part of the city with decorations, and to hold great theatrical displays, or sing-songs in eight or ten of the principal thoroughfares, with big processions for three days. The thieves' and pickpockets' guild ought to subscribe handsomely, since they get the best of the business at festivals of this sort. However, the celebration will now be reduced to a huge masked ball in front of the pagoda in the Bazar, where there will be a gorgeous display of fireworks, lamps, and magnificent illuminations and happy-go-lucky. It is said that a hundred *hou-ou* have been sent from Canton and other places to come down and offer prayers and sacrifices for three days, commencing on the night of the 14th December and ending in the small hours on the morning of the 18th. The original programme was arranged on the basis of a \$25,000 or \$30,000 subscription, instead of which only about \$8,000 is coming in.

The auction of the *Wah-gai* monopoly is announced for the 12th inst. The *Wah-gai* is for eight years, from 11th November, 1892, to 10th November, 1900, and \$80,000 is asked as security from bidders, the sum to go to the highest bidder, subject (as a matter of form probably) to the approval of the Lisbon Government. Mr. Barbosa, Inspector General of Revenue, is responsible for these strange conditions—may he not meet with the failure he usually achieves? It is now almost beyond a doubt that the old *Macanese* will be revived, under new colours, but with the same old washed-out brain; and the same feeble hands. It is to be sincerely trusted that the new organisation will have longer life and more solid policy and better sympathy among its staff than formerly existed. The paper will be "Luz-Chinese," and its new title will be *O Eco Macanese*.

To-morrow, the 8th, we shall be holding the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the National Festival of the Kingdom. Here it will be observed as a gala day, with high mass in the morning at the Cathedral and a procession in the afternoon. The Chief Justice has fixed for Saturday next the case of the murder of poor Canas, both swine of the *Din*, on the night of 22nd May last immediately after the terrible tornado, which I wrote you about at the time. On the 12th His Lordship will bear the action arising out of the horse-whipping of Mr. José da Silva, editor of the *Independente*, by the two sons of the noble Viscount, Senha Perraes. Both cases are expected to be exceedingly interesting.

On Sunday next, 11th inst., the Lottery of the House of Holy Mary will be drawn. We are full of great events for the month.

O'BRIEN.

THE OFFICIAL HUMORIST AND CHRISTY MINISTERS' ELEPHANT COMIQUE.

The Honorable C. T. M. O'Brien, of Hongkong, Unearthed one day a real gem—An ancient comic song.

The Legislative Council sat—O'Brien sat upon it; For in the listing of his hat He brought his funny sonnet.

But mercifully he refrained From making it too sudden; Least none should want the joke explained Whose heads are denser as pudden.

He made the first experiment Upon his ricksha coolie; The way that coolie quickly went Was most am-ing, truly.

The next attempt was on the Sikh Who guards the Council door; He went to hospital a week—And now he is no more!

O'Brien waded through his joke, First slowly, and then faster, Until he had contrived to choke The worthy Harbour Master.

So next he tried this fearful jest Upon His Excellency; In vain he nudged him in the vest To stimulate his fancy.

The Governor perhaps was slow, Like Jabs Nerve's son; We dunno why, but anyhow, He hasn't seen it yet.

So the Jester tried a higher flight, The *Hongkong Telegraph* The editor was most polite, And tried his best to laugh.

Your joke's as slow as a game of chess, And forty times as solemn; "Go, sell it to the *Daily Press*," For twenty cents a column!

THE OFFICE GOAT.

TO FAR CATHAY.

AN ABORTIVE ENTERPRISE.

Although we have named 1865 as the year in which the first regular line of steamers to China was founded, the age was established, the idea was considerably older. We may now take a step back to the year 1847, when a really ambitious project was placed before the public, to compete with the P. & O.

This was the India and Australia Mail Packet Company (mentioned incidentally in the "Race to India"), registered with a capital of £1,000,000 in 50,000 shares of £20 each, although we have no information of how much was ever actually subscribed. The Company was planned on the assumption that in India, Australia, and China, there was a population equal to more than half the entire population of the world, occupying countries which team with every product wanted by the other half. To bring these populations and their products into clear and rapid communication with the energy, skill, and capital of the Western world, was set forth as an object both of moral and commercial importance.

The Company proposed in the first instance to run a monthly packet to Alexandria, to correspond there with one from Suez to Aden, Ceylon, Madras, and Calcutta, and at Ceylon with one for Singapore and Sydney. These vessels were to be of 1,000 tons register each, "built on improved principles for diminishing fuel, thereby leaving greater space for passengers and goods, which will be conveyed at the lowest practicable cost."

The great profits of the P. & O. were dwelt on, both to tempt the investor and also to support the argument that it was against the public interest, and adverse to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and of the Honourable East India Company, that such a great national interest should be monopolised by one Company, and that it was "for the decided advantage of the public—that a fair and free competition of conveyance be permitted in the vast and increasing traffic between Europe and Asia."

The prospectus was held out (not without justification, as it happened) that a portion, at least, of the Indian mail contract would be conceded to the new Company, and that liberal terms would be conceded for the conveyance of the Australian mail. The capital was divided into £20 shares, "so that the public, whether passengers or merchants, may avail themselves of their own conveyance, and thus become participants in the profits of their own adventure."

The prospectus was certainly drawn up with astuteness—well calculated to arouse the cupidity of investors, the support of free traders, and the co-operation of vested interests such as John Company's.

Meanwhile, a Government inquiry had been in progress with reference to the several routes, actual or possible, to the East, and the report of the Commission published about this time set forth the following alternative routes:—

No. 1.—Via the West Indies:—
England to Chagres 4,400 Miles. Days, 40
Chagres across Panama 500 Miles. Days, 5
Panama to Auckland, N.Z. 8,780 Miles. Days, 8
Auckland to Sydney 1,450 Miles. Days, 13
Total 14,530 Miles. Days, 66

(But there was then no arrangement for transport across the Isthmus, and no coaling station in the Pacific, except at Tahiti and the Marquesas.)

No. 2.—Via Egypt and Mauritius:—
England to Alexandria 3,040 Miles. Days, 15
Alexandria to Aden 1,930 Miles. Days, 18
Aden to Mauritius 2,400 Miles. Days, 24
Mauritius to Albany, W.A. 3,400 Miles. Days, 34
Albany to Adelaide, S.A. 1,600 Miles. Days, 16
Adelaide to Van Diemen's Land 600 Miles. Days, 6
Van Diemen's Land to Sydney 500 Miles. Days, 5
Total 13,550 Miles. Days, 69

(During the S.W. monsoon, eight days more would be required for the run from Aden to Mauritius, and between Mauritius and Albany there was no coaling station. This route was also objected to as not helping to bring Australia into connection with India and China.)

No. 3.—Via Egypt and Ceylon:—
England to Ceylon via Aden 6,810 Miles. Days, 34
Ceylon to Keelung 1,500 Miles. Days, 9
Keelung Island to Swan River River 1,600 Miles. Days, 8
Swan River to Adelaide 1,450 Miles. Days, 8
Adelaide to Van Diemen's Land 600 Miles. Days, 6
Van Diemen's Land to Sydney 500 Miles. Days, 5
Total 12,

